

**African Folktales
of
Hare and Baboon
Book One**



Written and Illustrated
by Sarura Kids



The images in this book are inspired by and dedicated
to the memory of Peter Maushe - PM
(may he rest in peace)

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*Folktales of Hare and
Baboon:
Book One*

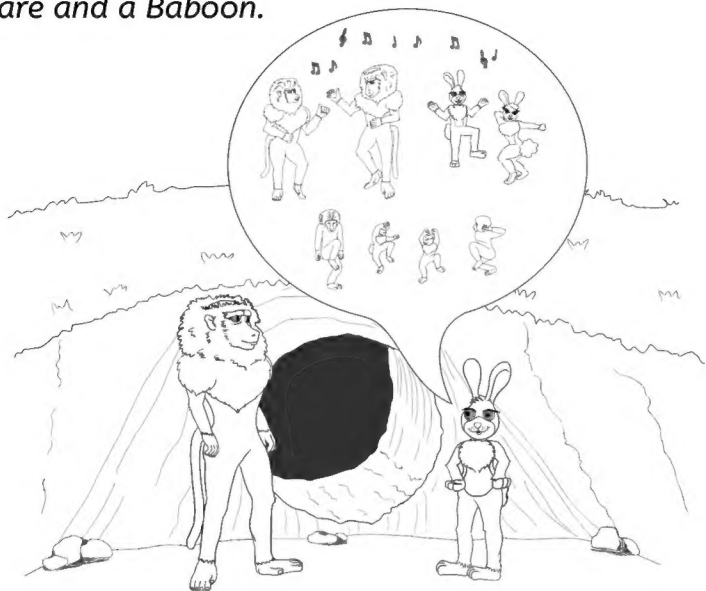
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Once upon a time, in a land far far away, lived a Hare and a Baboon.



One day the pair were having a discussion.
Hare had conjured up a devious plan to trick Baboon so he said to Baboon,
"Let us throw a party to celebrate the birth of my youngest child."

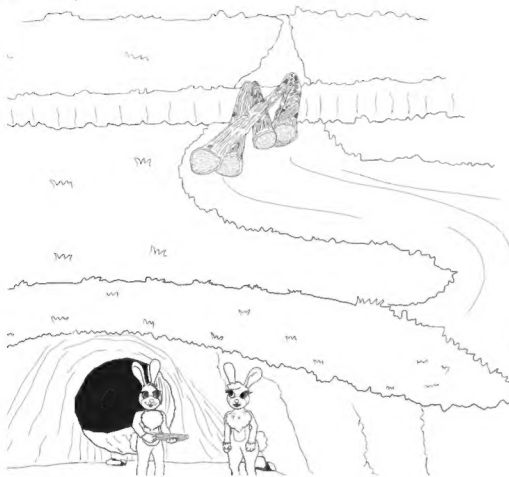
Baboon was very pleased with this idea.

And so it was that Hare invited Baboon and his family to the celebrations that Saturday.

Baboon was happy as he returned to his house and he told his family about the celebrations that Hare had invited them to.

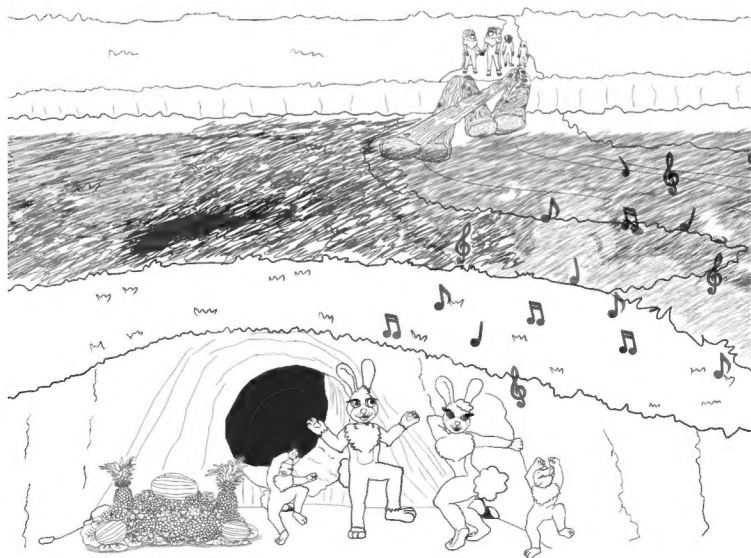
As soon as Baboon left Hare's homestead, Hare and his family began to prepare for the celebrations.

Since the invite from Hare to the party was not genuine, Hare started to burn the grass surrounding his homestead the night before the party.



Early the next morning Baboon and his family began to prepare for the day. When they were ready they set off for Hare's family party.

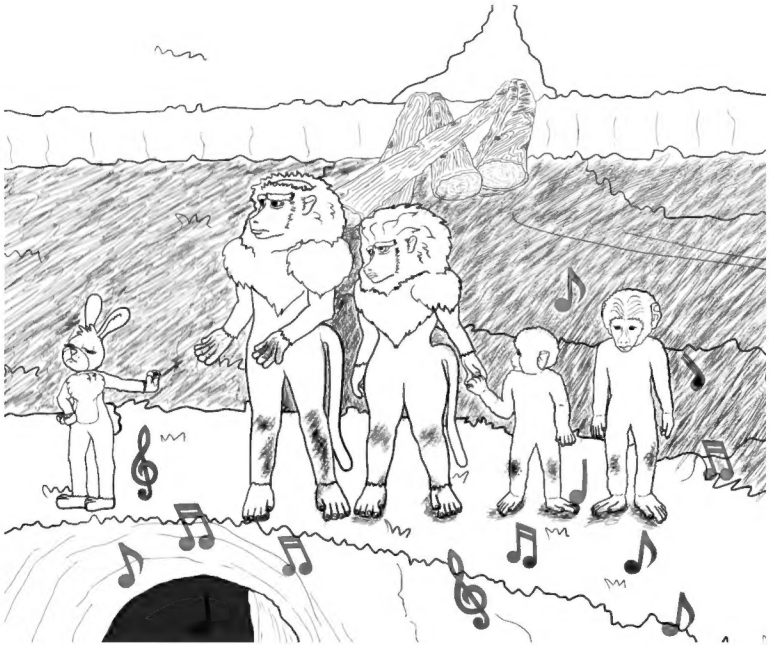
As Baboon's family got closer to Hare's homestead they heard loud music and drums of celebration.



They started to walk even faster so that they could also join in the celebrations.

Baboon and his family had to travel through the area of burnt grass in order to get to Hare's homestead.

As Baboon and his family walked through the dark burnt grass, their hands and feet got dirty.



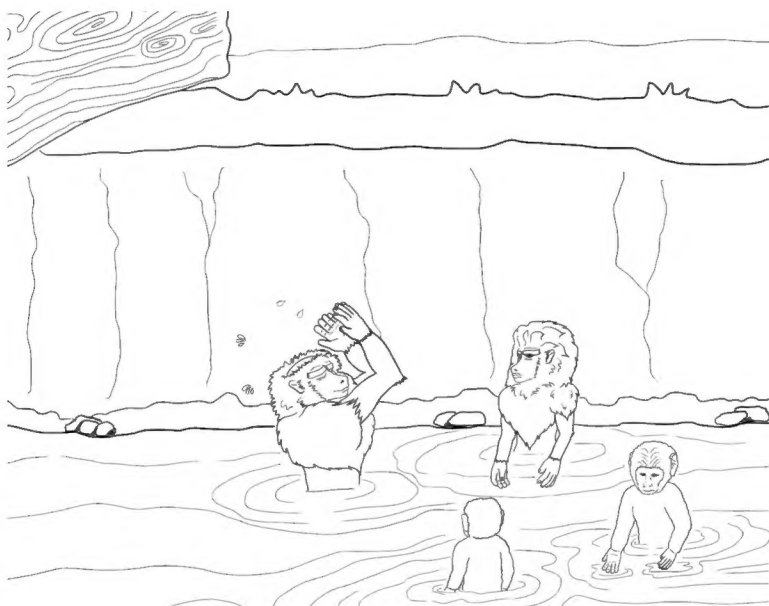
As they approached Hare's homestead they saw Hare waiting outside for them.

Hare requested to examine Baboon's family feet to make sure they were all clean.

Unfortunately all the Baboons' hands and feet were black and dirty from the burnt grass they had just walked through.

So Hare sent all the Baboons back to the river to wash their feet because he wanted only clean people at the party.

Baboon and his family returned to the river to wash their hands and feet so they could be clean for the party. After all, they did not want to be seen as being bad guests.



After they finished washing they returned to the party.

But they had to pass through the area of burnt grass so their feet and hands got dirty yet again.

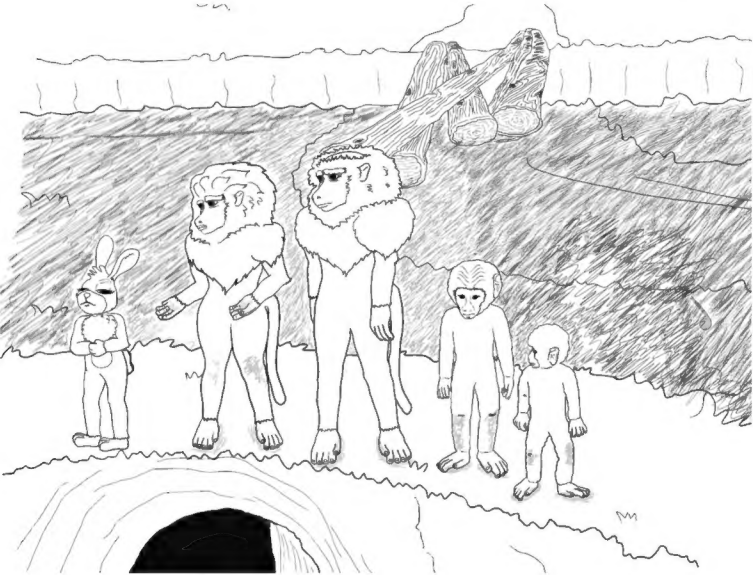
And again, as before, Hare was waiting for Baboon's family so that he could inspect their hands and feet.

Since Baboon and his family were dirty Hare sent them back to the river to bathe.

Back and forth, back and forth they went.

And each time the Baboons returned from the river their hands and feet were dirty again.

And so Hare spent the whole day sending them back to the river to wash their hands and feet.



By sunset, Baboon and his family were starving.

Furthermore, they were tired of going back and forth from the river to bathe.

There seemed to be just no way for them to stay clean, and their friend Hare was unrelenting in his wish for them to be clean for the party.

And so Baboon and his family returned home, frustrated at Hare's actions - and of course also still starving.

Baboon's family were deeply hurt, but Hare was delighted that he had got the best of Baboon.

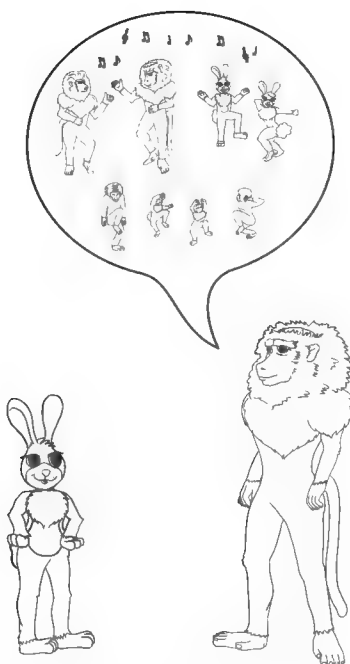


Three months after this, Baboon decided it was his turn to take his revenge on Hare and his family .

One day, as they relaxed Baboon said:

"Grandchild Hare, why don't you come to my party next week? It will be at my homestead and I wish to celebrate my anniversary with my wife. It would please us all greatly if you and your family were there."

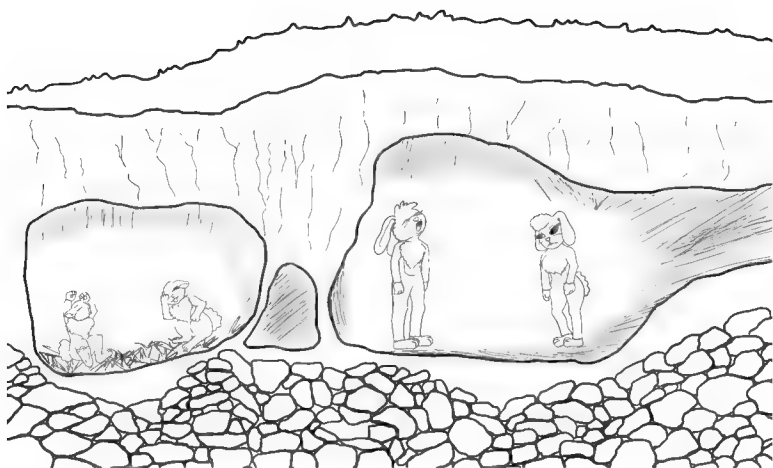
At this point Hare had completely forgotten about what he had done to Baboon. After all Baboon had not spoken about it since it had happened, so the wily Hare thought that he had gotten away with it.



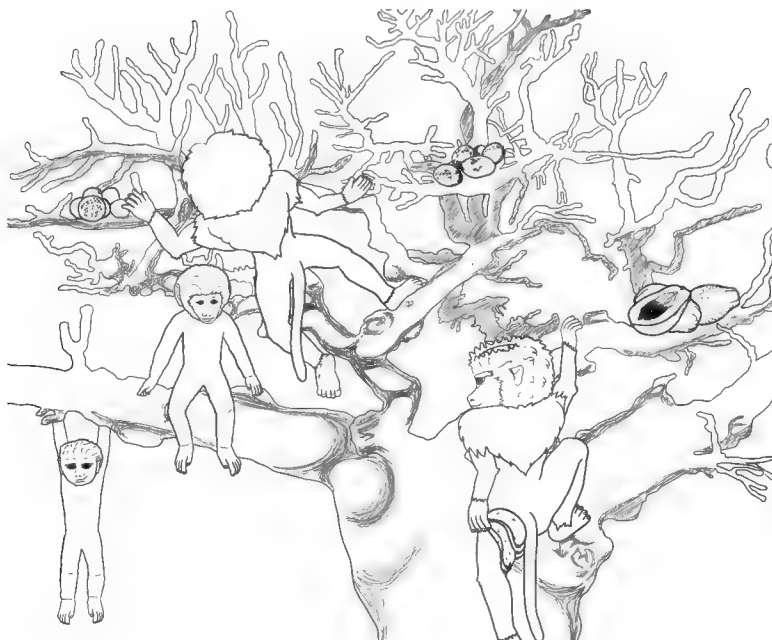
So he was very pleased with news of a party at Baboon's.

Baboon asked Hare to come very early in the morning because there would be so much food that it was unlikely that they could finish it all. Hare was very excited at hearing this because Hare was in fact very greedy.

On the day of the party, Hare and his family woke up at dawn to head to Baboon's homestead. They did not wish to be late, and the thought of the mountains of food awaiting them spurred them on. After all a whole day's worth of eating was best begun as early as possible.



Baboon and his family also woke at dawn to prepare the pots of food and drinks for the party. They collected them and arranged them in the big Baobab tree where they lived.



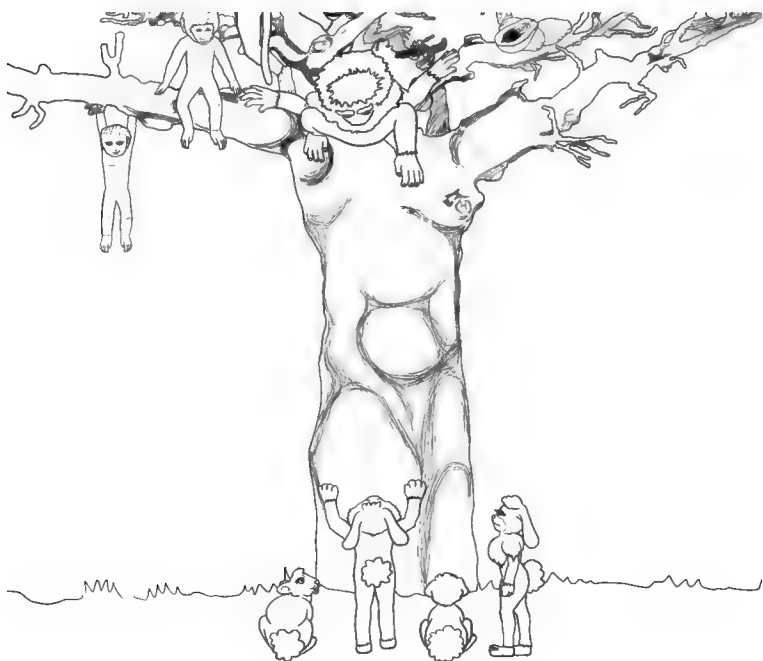
At daybreak Baboon and his family started playing the drums and celebrating.

The weather was fine, the food and drinks were plentiful, and they were all in a good mood.

As Hare and his family neared Baboon's home they heard shouts of jubilation.

They were very excited at the prospect of joining the party and they quickened their pace as they continued their journey towards Baboon's homestead.

But when Hare and his family arrived at Baboon's homestead, they were surprised to see all the Baboons celebrating while hanging from the uppermost branches of the Baobab tree.



Baboon and his wife called out to Hare and his family to join them in the Baobab tree where the celebrations were.

The party was in full swing now and they were keen for their guests to climb up and join in the fun.

Hare and his family tried their best to climb up the tree but they failed.

In fact they tried all day long but without any success.

They scrambled,
they scratched,
they hopped on each other's backs...

But whatever they tried, one after the other, Hare and his family tumbled back down.

Come sunset they had all given up. Their paws were tired, and their tummies grumbled. This wasn't helped by the smell of the delicious food which had proved indeed to be more than anyone could eat.

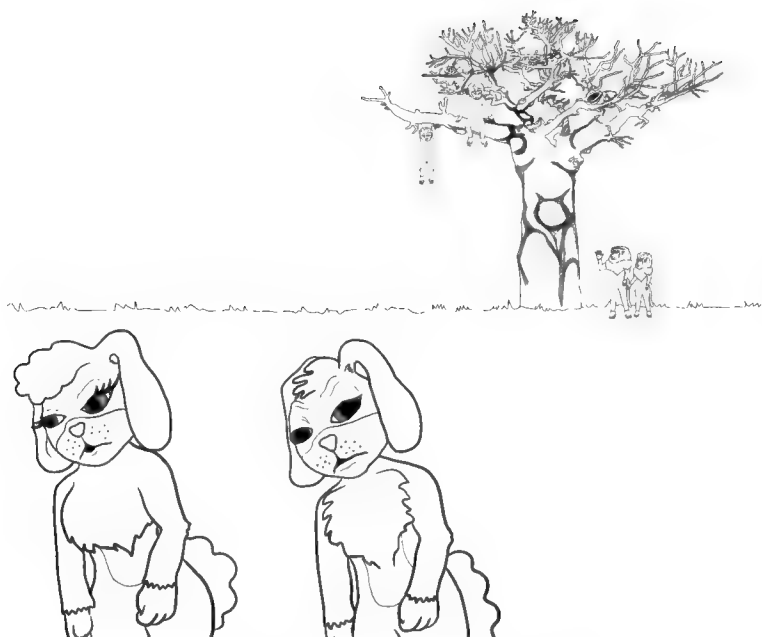
And so they returned to their home hungry and upset.

Up in the tree however, Baboon and his family were jubilant.

They had thrown the best party ever!

And what's more, they had managed to get their revenge on Hare for his wicked games.

That is the end of the story



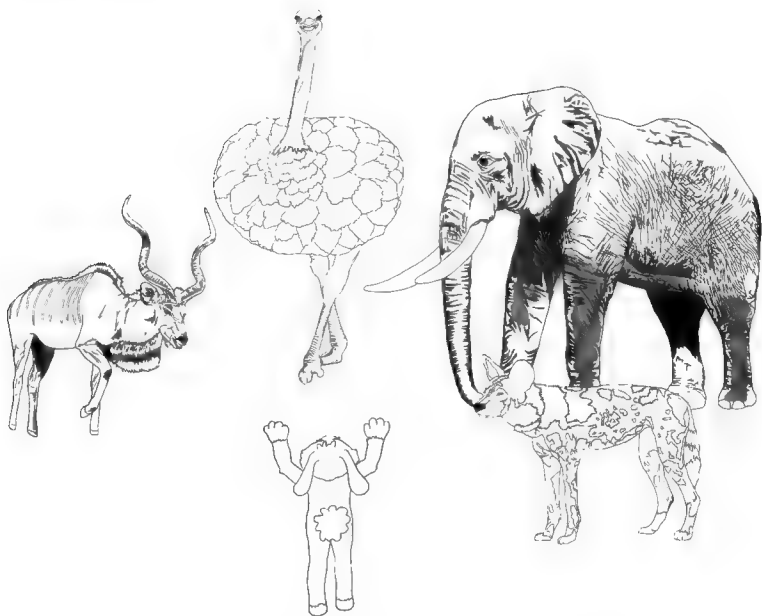
THE MORAL OF THE STORY

In life it is not a good thing to do evil to others because when tables turn you will not enjoy it. That is why the elders say, 'do unto others as you would like them to do unto you'.



Once upon a time, in a land far far away, lived a Hare and a Baboon.

Now as we all know Hares are very sneaky and Baboons are very believing. And this is where our story begins.



Because one day Hare was playing with the other wild animals.

Hare's mischief got the better of him and he thought it would be amusing to show off to his friends.

Hare bragged that there was nothing that he could not do.

He spun fantastic tales of all the impossible things that came naturally to him.

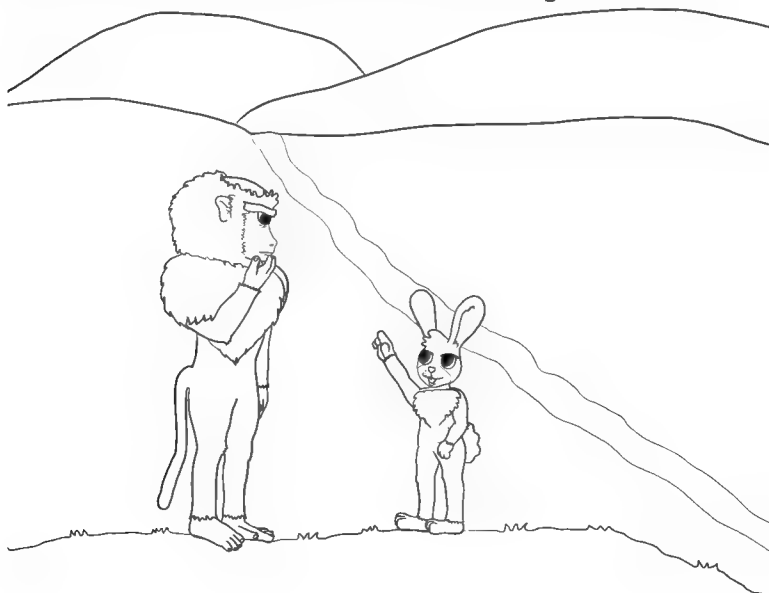
Hare boasted to his friends that one of the things he was able to do was to ride Baboon like a horse.

The rest of the animals were very surprised that Hare was able to ride Baboon like a horse. In fact they found that impossible to believe.

When Hare saw that his friends didn't believe what he was saying, he asked them if they would believe him if they saw him riding Baboon like a horse? Well of course the other animals agreed that if they saw Hare riding Baboon like a horse they would definitely believe him.

And so it was that Hare and the other animals agreed a time and a place where Hare would pass by while riding Baboon like a horse.

Once the plan was set Hare set off to find Baboon. He requested that Baboon accompany him to the other side of the river to visit Hare's girlfriend.



Hare pretended to be too afraid to make the journey on his own. So he really needed Baboon to accompany him as Baboon was so much braver than he was.

Baboon did not suspect a thing so he accepted Hare's request. You see, Baboon was a great believer in love and so he did not want Hare to miss out on the opportunity of being with his girlfriend.

The pair arranged a day and time to travel.

But since Hare had a secret agenda, he made sure that Baboon agreed to travel in the afternoon.

Hare also made sure to tell Baboon the route they should take as that was a shortcut to his girlfriend's house.

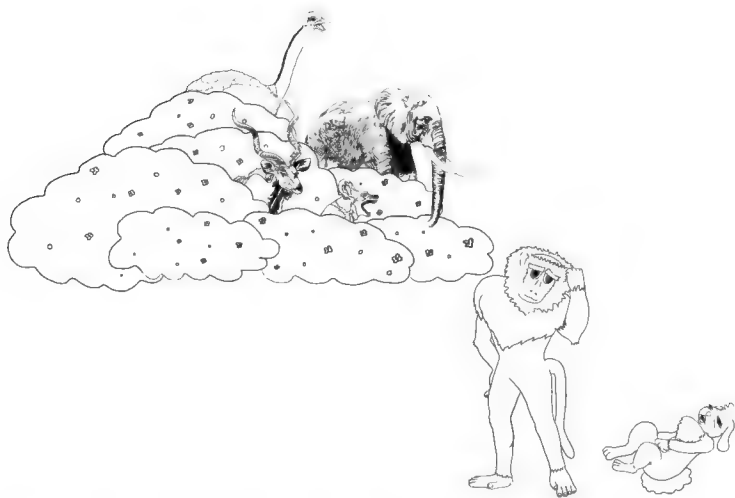
Hare knew that he was lying of course. He also knew that the road he had suggested was really the one in which the other animals would be hiding.

The other animals were waiting to see him live up to his bragging and he was not about to disappoint them.

The day of the journey arrived.

When Baboon wasn't looking Hare plucked a thorn from the Shona lantern tree and hid it in his pocket. The trap was set.

The pair set off on their journey to visit Hare's girlfriend. As they travelled they laughed and joked, whiling the time away with stories of family and their adventures.



As they drew closer to the place where Hare knew the other animals were hiding in the shrubs, he suddenly fell to the floor crying,

"Oh no Grandfather Baboon! I have been pricked by a thorn in my foot!

Oh dear, it was so painful that I can no longer walk!"

Hare pulled out the thorn that he had been hiding in his pocket and showed it to Baboon.

Poor Baboon!

He had no idea that this was all an elaborate game.

In fact he felt so sorry for Hare that he started wondering what they could do to help Hare who could now no longer walk.

Baboon tried in vain to calm Hare down but nothing worked.

He tried to distract him.

He tried to tell Hare that it didn't look so bad.

In fact - Baboon said - he couldn't see anything on Hare's foot. Maybe it wasn't that bad?

Baboon tried everything he could think of to take Hare's mind off his pain.

But nothing worked. Nothing that is, until he offered to piggyback Hare for a while so Hare would not have to step on the ground.

When he said this Hare stopped his wailing. But Hare was secretly laughing to himself as that was exactly what he had wanted to happen all along.

Hare agreed meekly with Baboon's suggestion with his head hanging to one side as though he were in pain.

So Baboon put Hare on his back and they resumed their journey.

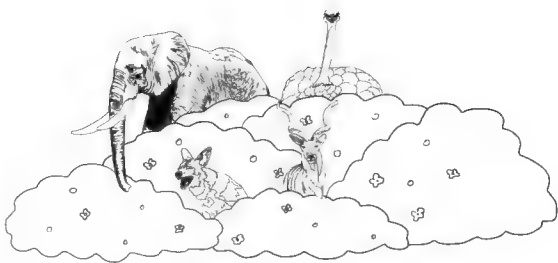
All this while Hare was still pretending to whimper in pain.

At times Baboon would even break into a trot in an attempt to make Hare happy and take his mind off being pricked by a thorn.

The trotting Baboon horsey and his rider Hare carried on a while until they were nearing the place where the other animals were hiding in the bushes.

Hare - knowing the trap he had set for Baboon - then started hitting Baboon with a stick on his back.

What a wicked little Hare!



The other animals who were hiding were shocked by what they saw.

Baboon was normally so calm and respectable. They couldn't believe that he would have let Hare ride on his back like he was a horse.

It was just as well that Baboon and Hare were not too close to the hiding animals. Because if they had been closer the animals would have heard Baboon ask Hare:

"Why are you hitting me while you're on my back Hare?"

Hare responded in an innocent voice that he wasn't hitting Baboon. In fact he was chasing away the flies that were buzzing around on Baboon's back.

Poor Baboon! He believed what Hare was saying. After all he had no reason not to. And so Baboon carried on running like a horse with Hare still on his back.

Once they were clear of where the other wild animals had been hiding in the bushes Hare

suddenly announced to Baboon that his leg was no longer too painful and he wanted to try walking again.

By this time they were already far away from where the other animals were so none of the animals saw or heard what happened.

Back by the shrubs the animals came out of their hiding places shaking their heads in disbelief at what they had seen. As far as they were concerned Baboon had been Hare's horse, which meant that Hare truly could do anything he said.

That is the end of the story.

THE MORAL OF THE STORY

In life, always be careful what others tell you because sometimes those people may be making a fool out of you and boasting to the whole world how unreasonable you are compared to them.



Once upon a time, in a land far far away, lived a Hare and a Lion.

Now of course we all know that a long time ago all animals could speak just like people.

And just like people there were nice animals and there were naughty animals.

Our friend Hare was one of the naughty ones.

And goodness was he naughty!

Very very naughty. And always looking for some trouble to get into.

Now we also know that Lion is the King of the forest.

One year Hare thought up a plan to make a fool out of Lion. As he plotted Hare went to play at the edge of the river.

Hare remained at this place because he knew that the other wild animals would visit to drink cool water from that part of the river.

A plan was swirling in his naughty little mind, and



it would only be a matter of time before Hare had the chance to see it through.

One day a huge Lion came to drink some water. After he had finished drinking water, the big Lion went to rest on a big rock. Oh goodness! The big Lion was so refreshed and so relaxed that he nodded off right there on that rock.

Before long Lion was snoring while he lay in the shade.

And that was exactly what Hare wanted.

Once he was certain that Lion was asleep, Hare came out of his hiding place and went over to where Lion was. He immediately started jumping up and down and stomping on Lion's tail and legs until Lion woke up from his sleep.



Poor Lion!

He was really rather tired and all he wanted to do was rest. He was definitely not amused by what Hare was doing.

Lion grabbed Hare by the leg and he roared:

"Hare! What are you doing? You're disturbing my sleep. Do you know that I can squish you like a bug and fling you aside?"

Hare clapped his hands in mock apology, and replied in the sweetest voice that he could muster:

"Please don't be angry with me o mighty Lion. Please don't kill me."

Lion shook his head and replied:

"Well you should have thought of that before you disturbed me! Do you not know that I am the King of all you see? Today you're going to reap what you sowed. You're going to pay Hare."



Lion's face really showed just how displeased he was with Hare. In fact if you had been there you would have been running for your very life.

But not cheeky Hare.

No.

Do you remember that Hare was one of the naughtiest animals?

With a sly smile Hare said to Lion:

"I was trying to wake you up o great big animal to let you know a little rumour that I heard in the grapevine."

Said Lion:

"What news did you hear?

Tell me now and tell me true.

Because if it doesn't make sense that will be the end for you."

So Hare started to brew his lies.

Said Hare:

"O noble and majestic King Lion, it really hurts me to hear that in this forest there is someone who sees you as an animal that can't think."

Lion was aghast! He couldn't believe that there was actually any animal that thought it was stronger and cleverer than he. After all had he not proved his magnificence and prowess time and again.

This made Lion pause long enough that he put Hare down and told him to tell his story.

And so Hare began to spin his treacherous web of lies. Hare lied to Lion that there lived a Lion in the river where all the animals came to drink water.

Hare told Lion that this Lion of the river was waiting for the day when it would bite the big Lion and kill it.

This Lion of the river would then rise up out of the water and take the throne. He would then be proclaimed the new King of the forest.

Hare told Lion that was the reason why he - Hare - no longer drank the water from that river.

He did not want to be ruled by the Lion of the river.

Lion - naturally shocked that he was only learning of such treachery now - asked Hare when it was possible to see this Lion of the river for himself.

Lion did not say - although it was clear as day - but by now he was so angry that all he could think about was fighting the Lion of the river.

Of course Hare knew this, but pretended to be innocent to the effect his words were having.

Instead Hare quickly responded that during the day at midday was the time that the Lion of the river would come.

Hare told Lion that the other animals of the forest would await the arrival of the Lion of the river as their true King.

This was because the Lion of the river really believed he was the stronger of the two.

This angered Lion no end.

And so the pair agreed that the following day Hare would show the Lion of the forest where he could find the Lion of the river.

They agreed that the Lion of the forest would battle the Lion of the river the following day.

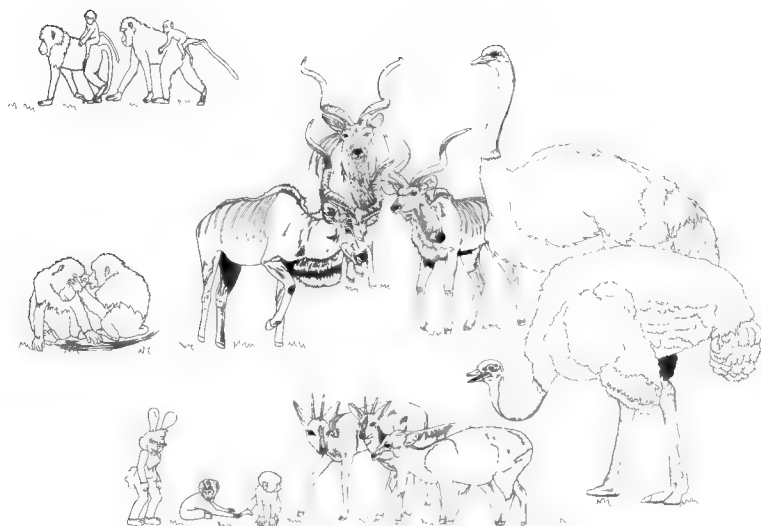
Hare took his leave and walked away with a secret smirk on his face.

As soon as Lion had let him go, Hare ran through the forest telling all the animals of the forest that they were afraid of Lion but Lion was really very stupid.

This surprised the other animals of the forest for they respected Lion greatly. But as they say curiosity did a strange thing to a cat. And these poor animals were no different. They simply had to see for themselves.

Hare told the animals that the following day at midday they should all come to the deepest point of the river where they all drank water.

Hare warned them that they should hide in the bushes and stay out of sight. They were to not make a sound, but simply watch so that they could see Lion's stupidity revealed.



The following day all the animals arrived early at the agreed upon place. Hare gathered them at a place close to where Lion would arrive. With their instructions to stay out of sight still ringing in their ears, they watched in shocked surprise at what was taking place before their very eyes.

Lion arrived still filled with rage and ready to battle the Lion of the water who wished to take his throne from him.

Hare rushed to welcome Lion and told him to follow him for today was a big day. Today two Lions would battle for the right to rule the forest.

Lion was certain he would prove himself to be the

true King of the forest and he walked proudly as he followed Hare.

He did not realise that he was being led to the deepest part of the river.

When all the other animals of the forest saw Lion walking behind Hare they were so petrified that they held their breath, fearful of what Lion would do if he discovered them.

As Hare and Lion neared the edge of the deepest part of the river the silence in the air was broken only by the lap lap lapping sound of the water on the river's banks.

Even the birds were transfixed as they glided silently above, waiting for the big moment.

Hare began to sneak.

Lion also began to sneak.

All the animals of the forest looked on in awe, dumbfounded by what they saw. It was all too much to bear.

No one knew just what was about to happen but they sensed that a mighty and fearful thing was unfolding before their very eyes.

The more timid animals fainted with fear.

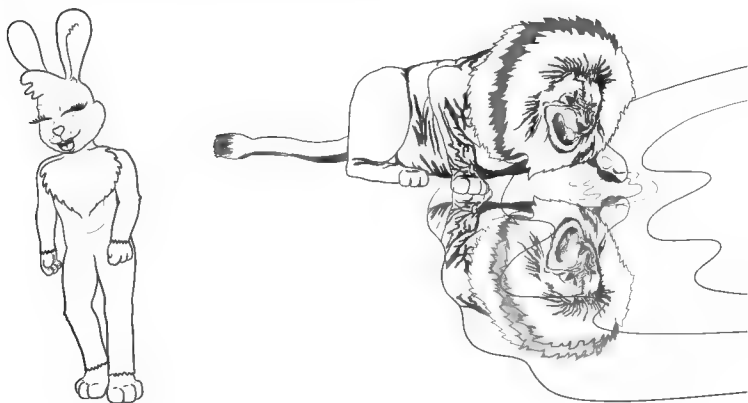
Hare whispered,

"Your Highness Lion go there and look into the water and you will see the Lion who wants to take your throne."



Lion crept even closer to the river's edge, his eyes aflame with anger.

Upon peeking into the water he saw to his horror a huge angry Lion looking right back at him with glowing angry eyes just like his.



Without realising that it was in fact only his reflection, Lion leapt into the river to battle the Lion of the water who had come to take his throne.

Poor Lion!

He immediately got swept away by the water.

Lion cried out in a loud voice begging for help as he was swept away.



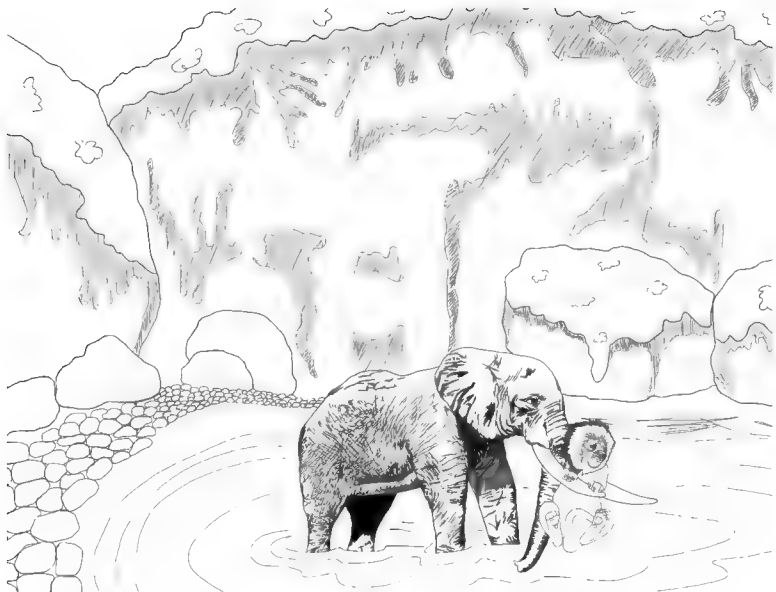
All the animals were amazed that Hare had fooled Lion.

After all Lion called himself the King of the forest.

Some animals started to pity Lion

Some of the other animals even scorned Lion for also being afraid of dying.

The small animals ran away and hid because they did not want it to be known that they had seen Lion drowning.



But Elephant was the only one who plucked up some courage.

He ran, following the banks of the river until he got to a more shallow spot. Elephant then waded into the water and waited for Lion.

When Lion was swept closer to where Elephant was standing in the water, Elephant quickly picked Lion up with his tusks and waded back out of the river.

Lion thanked Elephant profusely. He realised just how close he had been to being swept away by the strong river current thanks to his own pride.

Ever since that day Lion told all the animals of the forest that the most important animal in the jungle was Elephant because Elephant had saved Lion from certain death.

Lion also began to wait for Hare at the river in the hope that one day he would catch Hare when he came to drink water.

Because he knew what he had done, Hare stopped drinking water from the river from that very day because he was afraid of meeting Lion again.

Even up to this very day, Hare only drinks water from the wells and the dams where Lion does not go.

That is the end of the story.

MORAL OF THE STORY

In life the person who helps you when you are in trouble is your true friend.

So we are taught that we must think carefully about the things that we are told by our friends and beware that they do not lead us into problems.





Once upon a time, in a land far far away, lived a Hare and a Baboon.

Hare was Baboon's grandson. Through marriage of course. But don't ask me to explain, let it suffice to say that the olden days were indeed filled with many mysteries.

Hare was Baboon's grandson. And Hare very often assumed that his poor dear Grandfather understood him when he spoke a mile a minute. But as you will soon see, poor dear Grandfather Baboon really needed someone who spoke a lot slower than the fast-talking Hare.

Despite their huge differences, these two enjoyed sitting and talking about tales of long ago.

Tales even more fantastic than this one, of trees that walked, and horses that flew.

And every so often, they enjoyed talking about their own families and making plans to meet.

One day during one of these meetings, Hare asked Baboon to bring him a wheelbarrow when he came to visit the following day.

Hare needed to use the wheelbarrow to clear some litter around his homestead.

Baboon agreed to bring the wheelbarrow for Hare. After all he was coming the following day so it was no extra work for him.

The following day came and Baboon found himself struggling to figure out how he would carry the wheelbarrow.

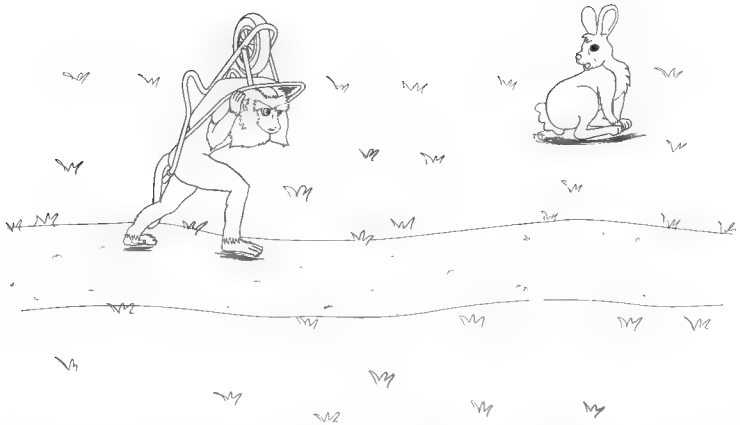
He tried to carry the wheelbarrow on his head and he found it very difficult to do.

Poor Baboon even tried to pull the wheelbarrow but this was still too heavy.

In the end Baboon decided to carry the wheelbarrow on his back.

Even though carrying the wheelbarrow was heavy Baboon thought it best to struggle on. After all as we well know Baboon did not like to let anyone down. And he definitely did not like to let Hare down.

So off on his journey he went, with the heavy wheelbarrow balanced precariously on his back. Baboon was bent over double and going very



slowly, but in this way he continued until he got to Hare's house.

Imagine Hare's shock when he saw Baboon arriving at his homestead carrying a wheelbarrow on his back.

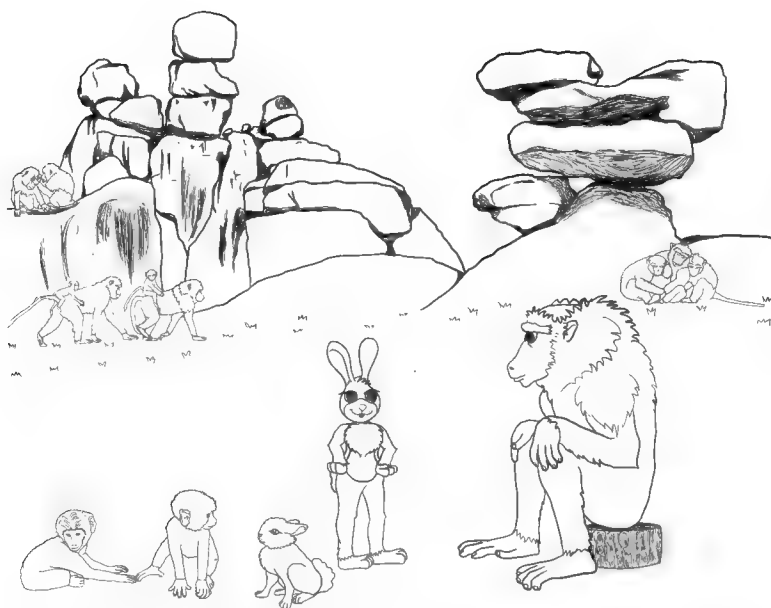
The wheelbarrow's wheels were clearly working. So Hare could not imagine why Baboon had chosen not to use them.

Hare said to Baboon,



"No Grandfather Baboon you should have come pulling the wheelbarrow not carrying it on your back."

Baboon nodded his head to show he had understood.



One day a little while later Baboon and Hare were relaxing and socialising.

On this day Hare's child had gone to play at Baboon's house and would be sleeping over.

Hare asked Baboon that when he came to Hare's home the following day he bring Hare's child home. Baboon agreed. After all it would be a pleasure for him to help his relative Hare.

The following day as Baboon was preparing to go to Hare's home he remembered the advice that Hare had given him when he had returned with the wheelbarrow on his back.

At that time Hare had advised Baboon to pull the wheelbarrow and not to carry it on his back. Thinking that this was the advice to follow Baboon grabbed Hare's child by the leg and he started pulling Hare's child as he headed off to Hare's home.

Baboon dragged Hare's child all the way through the forest. All the way down the winding paths, and up and down the bumpy roads. Grandfather Baboon was determined to do as he had been told by Hare.

Poor Hare's child!

Who could explain what was happening to the poor child? Baboon did not know why he was doing it, but he was certain that Hare had told him to do so.

And so this unfortunate pair finally made it through the forest and onto the final leg of their journey.

As they neared Hare's homestead, Hare was shocked to hear his child crying in the distance. Hare climbed up a nearly anthill so he could better see where the noise was coming from.

Imagine his shock at what he saw!

Baboon was busy dragging Hare's child by the leg all the way home.



Hare ran to meet Baboon as he called out:
"Grandfather!
Grandfather don't drag the child.
Grandfather! Please don't drag the child."

Baboon stopped, perplexed as to what he had done wrong.

Hare - still out of breath - told Baboon that he was not supposed to drag the child but that he was supposed to carry the child on his back in the baby carrier wrap.

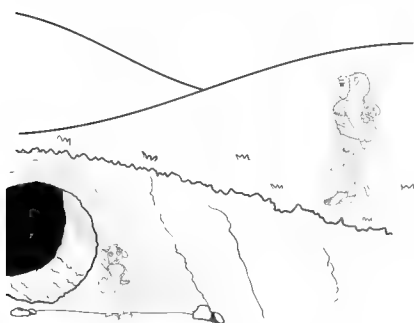
Baboon listened carefully with a confused look on his face. He appeared to be thinking deeply about what he had just been told. Baboon thanked Hare for his advice and promised that he would use it in the future.

A week later, Hare asked Baboon to give him a puppy that would play with Hare's child as Hare's child wanted a puppy to play with. Baboon agreed to bring Hare's child a puppy to play with the following day.

At sunrise Baboon took the baby carrier wrap and chose a cute puppy from the ones at his homestead. Baboon then wrapped the puppy up into a baby carrier wrap before putting it onto his back. With the puppy safely secured, Baboon set off for Hare's homestead.

When Baboon arrived at Hare's homestead, Hare was shocked to see Baboon carrying the puppy on his back in a baby carrier wrap!

Both Baboon and the puppy did not seem too pleased with the arrangement but yet both of them were steadily making their



way to Hare's homestead.

Out of disbelief Hare said to Baboon, "Grandfather Baboon you don't carry a puppy on your back. You should have come with the puppy walking by your side. If you thought that the puppy was tired of walking you could have carried it and held it in your hands. Not carrying it on your back."

Baboon was perplexed and could not understand all the differences between all of these things. If everything had a different way it had to be done, how on earth was he supposed to know which way to do anything?

And that - I am afraid to say - is the end of the story.

MORAL OF THE STORY

Use your brains when you are undertaking different jobs.

You should deal with every situation according to its own merits.

If you do not use your brains you will always find yourself in a tangle and you will struggle to complete tasks to satisfaction.







Once upon a time, in a land far far away, lived a Hare and a Baboon.

Hare fancied himself a bit of a know-it-all, and Baboon believed that Hare knew it all. Which as we all know does not make for a very good combination of friends.

One day the pair were relaxing and eating fruits together. Baboon asked Hare why he kept hearing some animals saying they had encountered danger. Baboon was very curious because he did not know what danger meant.

Hare thought hard for a moment and then burst out laughing.

Baboon asked Hare if danger was funny since Hare had laughed at Baboon's question.

Hare replied to Baboon that it was difficult to explain what danger was. What was easier was for him to go somewhere with Baboon where he could show him what danger was.

It was easier to see danger in real life rather than someone trying to explain what it was.

Hare found it difficult to properly explain danger because he could not explain in a way that was easy to understand.

And so it was that Baboon agreed that they arrange a day for Hare to show him danger.

They agreed that they would go the following day so that Baboon could see for himself what danger was



The following day Hare and Baboon met at the agreed upon rendezvous point, under the big Baobab tree.

Baboon was very excited because today was a huge day in his life. Today Baboon was going to discover danger.

Hare told Baboon that they were going on an adventure together. During this adventure Baboon was supposed to do whatever Hare did so that he could encounter danger.

Baboon agreed to copy everything that Hare did.

The pair chatted as they began to walk towards towards a homestead nearby.

As they neared the homestead Hare stopped and said to Baboon,

"Grandfather now you must start to copy everything I do if you want to see danger."



Baboon agreed to do everything that Hare said. Hare crept on ahead and Baboon followed after. Hare crept off towards the cattle enclosure with Baboon not far behind.

Hare entered the cattle enclosure with Baboon close behind.

Hare crouched beside a cow and her calf. Baboon was beside him.

Hare started whispering:

"I am milking, I am milking, I am listening."

Baboon did not understand why Hare was whispering and so he copied Hare but instead of whispering he shouted at the top of his lungs,

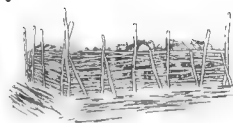
"I am milking, I am milking, I am listening."



Hare whispered again,
"I am milking, I am milking, I am listening."
Baboon shouted at the top of his voice,
"I am milking, I am milking, I am listening."

Three big dogs that were at the house pricked their ears up. The dogs thought that thieves had broken into the cattle enclosure when they heard Baboon shouting as he was milking the cow.

The dogs started running
in the direction of the
cattle enclosure.
As soon as Hare heard the
dogs coming



he leapt up and off he ran.
Baboon hesitated for a
moment, shocked as to
what was happening and
what Hare was running
from.

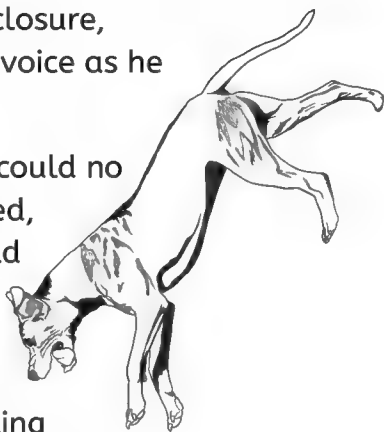


In no time however
Baboon realised
that things
had gone awry

and that the dogs were running towards the cattle enclosure.

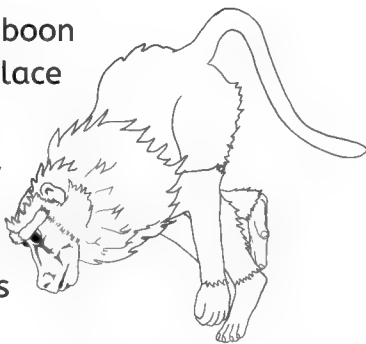
Baboon stopped milking the cow too and leapt up and out of the cattle enclosure, wailing at the top of his voice as he ran from the dogs.

All of a sudden Baboon could no longer see Hare. Confused, he ran as fast as he could back in the direction they had come from. The three dogs - only seeing Baboon and thinking him to be the thief - gave chase.



Hare called out to Baboon from his safe hiding place out of sight:

"Grandfather Baboon, you wanted to see what danger was didn't you? Well that's what danger is."



Back and forth Baboon and the dogs went, until Baboon was out of breath.

Eventually Baboon saw a big tree in front of him.

He ran towards the big tree and scrambled up as high as he could.



The dogs were hot in pursuit and soon caught up with Baboon. Luckily for Baboon dogs cannot climb trees. But they still stood guard at the bottom of the tree, leaping about excitedly.

Eventually - after a very long while - the dogs got tired of barking and leaping about and they ran back home.

Once the dogs were nowhere to be seen, Hare came out from the bush where he had been hiding. Hare called out to Baboon who was still quivering with fear to come down from the tree because the danger was now over.



Said Hare,

"Did you see Grandfather? That is what is called danger."

At this point Baboon was so angry at Hare for having put him through this ordeal. But he was also annoyed at himself for having put himself in that situation. But more than anything Baboon was quivering at the knowledge that he had narrowly missed death.

Baboon knew that he could not be angry at Hare because he was the one who had wanted to know 'what is danger'.

On the other hand Hare kept telling Baboon that he had fulfilled what Baboon wanted to know. And Baboon knew without any doubt just what danger was.

And that, my friends, is the end of the story.

MORAL OF THE STORY

In life do not just copy everything that you don't know because one day you will follow things that will land you in danger.

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